(d) if so, whether students have been asked to opt for new books;

(e) if so, whether Government are aware that the students are facing difficulty to cover these new books in short time; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Based on the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2000 and the revised syllabi thereof, NCERT has introduced new text books for all subjects in Classes I, III, VI, IX & XI, in the current academic year. The release of Hindi, History and Social Sciences text books was delayed because of stay orders of the Supreme Court, which were vacated on September 12, 2002.

(e) and (f) The Government has not received any communication regarding difficulty being faced by students to cover the new books.

Social Science text books by opposition parties

2449. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the rejection of National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) and the NCERT's social science text books, brought out by the opposition parties in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether States can reject the NCFSE since the Education is in the concurrent list; and

(d) why Government have failed to consult State Governments before any change in the National Education Policy was introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The NCFSE has been prepared keeping in view the provisions in the existing policy and finalized after a wide ranging consultative process, including consultation with the State Governments. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2000 has also been examined

by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Nothing objectionable was found in the document. Hence, text books based on the new curriculum have been released. It is upto the States and Boards of School Education to design their syllabi by adopting/adapting from the NCFSE.

Withdrawal of NCERT text books

2450. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in the country, which have requested Government to withdraw the NCERT text books;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also requested to withdraw the National Curriculum Framework, imposed by the Centre; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) While the Chief Minister of Karnataka expressed reservation on National Curriculum Framework for School Education on the grounds of lacking transparency, consultation and consensus, its Education Minister informed that most of the recommendations were favourable for implementation. But no specific request from any State to withdraw the NCERT text books has been received by the Government. It is upto the State Government/ Board of School Education to adopt or adapt the new curriculum with or without modifications or prepare its own.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

2451. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan proposes to put all children between 6—14 years in the country to school, by 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the achievements, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of States and Union Territories have not responded with their perspective plans, thereby putting the programme in jeopardy;